



Chatham Borough Police Department

Providing quality and professional law enforcement services to our community



Brian K. Gibbons • Chief of Police

Chatham Borough Police Department Firearms Unit



General: Police-Issued Permits – Firearms Regulations & Permits

There are many State and Federal Laws that control the sale and possession of firearms and this website will not attempt to explain them all or offer legal advice. We will offer some basic definitions, and alert you to the times when permits are required.

The actual USE of a firearm within the State of New Jersey is controlled by statutes, which the firearm owner/handler is responsible for learning. Information on the legal purchase/sale, possession, and transportation of firearms can be found at the NJ State Police webpage at: <https://www.njsp.org/firearms/firearms-faqs.shtml>

There is no penalty for the “Voluntary Surrender” of a firearm. Borough residents wishing to do so should contact the Chatham Borough Police Detective Bureau at (973) 635-8553.

The discussion below lists permits that ONLY apply to the ordinary purchase and transport of a permitted weapon for personal use. If you are interested in becoming a gun dealer or gunsmith, etc., additional State and Federal Regulations apply. Refer to the NJ State Police webpage at: <https://www.njsp.org/firearms/firearms-faqs.shtml>

Instructions for Firearms Applicants

The firearms Unit of the Chatham Borough Police Department is responsible for processing all requests for Firearms Purchaser Identification Cards and Handgun Permits within the Borough of Chatham.

***Please note** – these instructions apply only to residents of Chatham Borough. If you do not reside in Chatham Borough, you must apply through your local police department.

The Process:

All persons who wish to purchase and own firearms in the State of New Jersey must complete an application process which consists of a thorough background check and the submission of fingerprints. The first document that needs to be obtained is a Firearms Purchaser Identification card. This document, which can be obtained by persons 18 years of age or older, allows the person to purchase long guns, rifles and shotguns. For those

persons wishing to purchase handguns, they are required to obtain a Handgun Permit. Each Handgun Permit is valid for 90 days from the date of issuance and is valid for the purchase of **one** handgun. You must be 21 years of age or older to apply for a Handgun Permit.

It is important to note that all applications must be filled out completely and correctly and that the information that is provided is must be true and accurate. Providing false information, or omitting required information, could result in the denial of your request and the filing of criminal charges against you. Persons who have been arrested or issued a summons in the past are not automatically disqualified from gun ownership but they should contact the Police Department with any specific questions prior to starting the application process.

Please refer to the instructions listed below to start your process. Any specific questions can be directed to the Chatham Borough Detective Bureau at (973) 635-8553 or detectivebureau@chathamborough.org and additional information can be found at the NJ State Police Webpage at:

<https://www.njsp.org/firearms/firearms-faqs.shtml>

First- Time Applicants, Firearms Purchaser Identification Card, Handgun Permits & Additional Permits

The State of New Jersey has developed an on-line portal for all firearms application processing. Applicants are encouraged to process and submit their applications via Firearms Application and Registration System (F.A.R.S.) by clicking the following link:

<https://www.njportal.com/NJSP/Fars/>.

Answers to frequently asked questions can be found at the following link:

<https://www.njportal.com/NJSP/Fars/home/Faq>

- The **ORI Number** to be used by Chatham Borough Firearm Applicants is **NJ0140400**
- Applications using any other ORI Number will not be received by the Chatham Borough Police Department and subsequently will not be processed.
 - Use of the wrong ORI Number will result in the loss of any fees submitted.
- Upon completion of the FARS application, the applicant must fill out the Consent for Mental Health Records Search Form (S.P.66) and make an appointment with the Detective Bureau.
 - ****This document must be signed in the presence of a detective****.
- Associated fees for Firearms Purchaser Identification Cards and Handgun Permits must be paid to the Borough of Chatham by check or postal money order prior to their issuance to the applicant.

Appointments with the Chatham Borough Police Department Detective Bureau can be made by phone at (973) 635-8553 or by email at detectivebureau@chathamborough.org. Applicants without computer or internet access may still apply by making an appointment. All other questions or concerns regarding the Firearms Application and Registration System may also be forwarded to the Detective Bureau.

Definitions:

“Firearm”: means any handgun, rifle, shotgun, machine gun, automatic or semi-automatic rifle, or any gun, device or instrument in the nature of a weapon from which may be fired or ejected any solid projectable ball, slug, pellet, missile or bullet, or any gas, vapor or other noxious thing, by means of a cartridge or shell or by the action of an explosive or igniting of flammable or explosive substances. It shall also include, without limitation, any firearm which is in the nature of an air gun, spring gun or pistol or other weapon of a similar

nature in which the propelling force is a spring, elastic band, carbon dioxide, compressed or other gas or vapor, air or compressed air, or is ignited by compressed air, and ejecting a bullet or missile smaller than three-eighths of an inch in diameter, with sufficient force to injure a person (NJSA 2C:39-1).

“Antique Firearm”: means any rifle or shotgun and “antique cannon” means a destructive device defined in paragraph (3) of subsection c. of this section (NJSA 2C:39-1), if the rifle, shotgun or destructive device, as the case may be, is incapable of being fired or discharged, or which does not fire fixed ammunition, regardless of date of manufacture, or was manufactured before 1898 for which cartridge ammunition is not commercially available, and is possessed as a curiosity or ornament of for its historical significance or value.

“Antique Handgun”: means a handgun manufactured before 1898, or a replica thereof, which is recognized as being historical in nature or of historical significance and either (1) utilizes a match, friction, flint or percussion ignition, or which utilizes a pin-fired cartridge in which the pin is part of the cartridge or (2) does not fire fixed ammunition or for which cartridge ammunition is not commercially available.

“Visual Distress Signaling Device”: Nothing in this section (NJSA 2C:39-1) or in NJSA 2C:58-2 shall apply to the sale or purchase of a visual distress signaling device (flare gun) approved by the United States Coast Guard, solely for possession on a private or commercial aircraft or any boat; provided, however that no person under the age of 18 years shall purchase nor shall any person sell to a person under the age of 18 years such a visual distress signaling device.

Additional Information:

The purchase or “BB” or “pellet” gun in the State of New Jersey requires the buyer to at possess a Firearms Purchaser Identification Card.

“Airsoft” guns are not considered weapons or firearms unless they are used in an unlawful manner.